

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-10 PM-03 DODE-00 EUR-10 DPW-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15270

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON, USSAG
NKP THAILAND FROM BIEN HOA AUGUST 22 BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE BIEN HOA 427

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR3 SITREP - AUGUST 22, 1973

1. MR3 G2 REPORTS 42 MILITARY CLASHES IN FIRST 48 HOURS, ENDING
0800 AUGUST 22. OF THESE 24 OCCURED IN FIRST 24 HOURS AND 18 IN
SECOND. THERE WERE NINE GROUND ATTACKS, 16 ATTACKS BY FIRE (TWO
OVER 20 ROUNDS CAUSING NO INJURIES), FOUR COMBINED FIRE/GROUND
ATTACKS, SEVEN MINING/GRENADE DETONATIONS (TWO CIVILAIN), FOUR SMALL
ARMS HARASSMENTS, ONE TERRORIST INCIDENT (AN KHUONG VILLAGE OFFICE
DEMOLISHED BY EXPLOSION IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE), ONE GROUND TO AIR
FIRING (SW DUC HUE, HAU NGHIA NO INJURIES OR DAMAGE TO VNAF, ONE
COMMUNIST KIA BY RETURN FIRE). TOTAL GVN LOSSES FOR PERIOD WERE
THREE KILLED (ONE CIVILIAN), 16 WOUNDED (ONE CIVILIAN) AND ONE M-16.
COMMUNIST LOSSES FOR THE SAME PERIOD WERE TWO KIA, ONE VCI CAPTURED
(COLLECTING TAXES N BA RIA, PHUOC TUY PROVINCE), SIX AK'S ONE
EACH M-16 AND K-54 PISTOLS, TWO GRENADES, 70 KILOS RICE AND 200
ROUNDS AK AMMO. INCIDENTS IN THE REGION BY PROVINCE WERE BINH ONG
TWELVE, HAU NGHIA NINE, TAY NINH SIX, LONG KHANH FIVE, BINH DUONG
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FOUR, BIEN HOA THREE, LONG AN TWO, PHUOC LONG ONE.

2. TEN OF THE 12 REPORTED BATTLES IN BINH LONG PROVINCE (TWO WERE DELAYED REPORTS) TOOK PLACE NEAR AN LOC, MAKING THIS AREA THE HOTTEST DURING THE 48 HOURS. ELEMENTS OF 30TH, 33RD, AND 38TH RANGER BNS WERE

REPORTED ATTACKED BY UNKNOWN SIZE ENEMY FORCES; THE RESULTING CLASHES LEFT EIGHT RANGERS WOUNDED. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE THREE KIA AND TWO AK'S. IT WAS REPORTED A NUMBER OF WIA'S WERE EVACUATED NORTHWARD. HEAVY CONTACT WAS REPORTED IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE AUGUST 20, WHEN COMMUNISTS ATTACKED A PATROL OF 1ST CO 5TH REGT ARVN 25TH DIVISION 6 KM N TRANG BANG. THERE WERE NO LOSSES FOR ARVN, WHILE COMMUNIST LOSSES FOR THE ENGAGEMENT WERE FOUR KIA AND TWO AK'S. PHUOC BINH AIRFIELD, PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, RECEIVED TWO 107MM ROCKETS RESULTING IN

NO INJURIES OR DAMAGE AUGUST 20; COMMUNISTS STILL SHELL AIRFIELD AFTER VNAF PLANS LAND THERE.

3. AT A SPECIAL MEETING AUGUST 21, MR 3 CG LTG MINH TOLD HIS PROVINCE

CHIEFS AND DIVISION COMMANDERS THAT PERIOD FROM NOW TO END OF 1973 IS CRUCIAL IN MR3. HE EMPHASIZED THAT GVN WAS NO LONGER WORRIED ABOUT

VIOLATING CEASE-FIRE, ONLY ABOUT CONTROL OF PEOPLE AND RVN INSTITUTIONS

IN MR3. GVN MUST PROTECT PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO VOTE IN COMING UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, AND ASSURE 100 PCNT TURNOUT THROUGHOUT REGION. GVN MUST

CONTROL RICE HARVEST AND PREVENT IT FROM FALLING INTO COMMUNIST HANDS.

PROVINCE CHIEFS SHOULD GET OUT AMONG THE PEOPLE, AND IMPROVE PERFORM-

ANCE OF PROPAGANDA MACHINERY. (WE WILL BE REPORTING MORE DETAILS BY SEPARATE MESSAGE).

4. JCRC OPERATION AUGUST 21 IN BINH CHANH DISTRICT, GIA DINH PROVINCE, RESULTED IN RECOVERY OF 35 TO 40 PCNT OF HUMAN SKELETON, INCLUDING LOWER JAW WITH TWO TEETH. POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION NOT POSSIBLE UNTIL FURTHER STUDY OF REMAINS. SOURCE WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION CLAIMS HE BURIED BODY OF BLACK AMERICAN SOLDIER WHO WAS KILLED DURING '68 TET OFFENSIVE. SOURCE IS UNCLE OF ARVN CAPTAIN ASSIGNED TO TAY NINH WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION TO CONGEN TAY NINH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.

5. REPORTS FROM VARIOUS PROVINCES TEND TO CONFIRM INFORMATION
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REPORTED IN AUGUST 20 SITREP THAT COMMUNISTS ARE TAKING SOME INTEREST IN AUGUST 26 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. IN GENERAL THEY ARE SAYING IT IS INVALID BECAUSE RVN CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN SUPERSEDED BY PARIS AGREEMENT, AND IRRELEVANT BECAUSE COMMUNISTS WILL SOON TAKE OVER COUNTRY ANYWAY. THEY ARE REPORTEDLY PLANNING SOME DISRUPTION AND SABOTAGE, AND IN DIFFERENT PLACES URGING PEOPLE TO BOYCOTT ELECTION, OR TO CAST INVALID BALLOTS, OR TO DO WHAT THEY LIKE. (COMMENT: WE DO NOT THINK COMMUNIST DISRUPTION WILL

AMOUNT TO MUCH. END COMMENT). MEANWHILE, URGED ON BY GEN MINH'S REQUIREMENT THAT MR 3 PRODUCE 100 PCNT TURNOUT, PROVINCE CHIEFS ARE PLANNING TRADITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY REGISTERED VOTER GOES TO POLLS AT LEAST ONCE, AND THAT REPORTED TURNOUT IS UP TO TOTALS DEMANDED BY SAIGON. POPULATION IS APATHETIC BUT MOST WILL VOTE TO AVOID DIFFICULTIES WITH GVN. BIG VICTORY FOR SLATES 1 AND 2 IS STILL ANTICIPATED, BUT SLATES 3 AND 4 DO HAVE POSTERS UP THROUGHOUT THE REGION, AND SLATE 3 MAY MAKE A GOOD SHOWING IN CERTAIN LOCALITIES, LENDING TOUCH OF PLAUSIBILITY TO ELECTION.

WALKINSHAW

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